

Easter | Celebrating God

I. 5 Ways We Should All Worship God All the Time

- **Worship God in Bible study.**
 - We should feel the same way about the Bible as David does in Psalm 119
 - Bible reading, study, meditation, and application is the single best thing any and all Christians should do.
- **Worship God in prayer.**
 - Luke 5:16
 - The Son of God Himself illustrated for us the importance of prayer. Even though He was and is the second person of the Godhead, He engaged in purposeful and lengthy times of communication with His Father.
 - Easter is about the greatest, most divine, miraculous, and amazing gift ever given. Take time this Easter to at least thank the Lord for being so awesome.
 - Beyond that you could simply talk to Him about your life, pray the Scriptures back to Him, and advocate for others who do not yet know Him.
- **Worship God in discipleship.**
 - Discipleship involves assembling with God's people on Easter Sunday. Remember, church isn't about you. It's about God. And God wants us to interact with one another and disciple one another.
 - Topics of conversation can obviously include what you've been studying in the Word, Justification, Life, and how all of that should affect our daily lives.
- **Worship God in song.**
 - In Exodus 15:1, after experiencing salvation from God in the form of the exodus from Egypt and the destruction of the Egyptian army, Moses and the sons of Israel sang, "*I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted.*" And they recounted His character and deeds.
 - The Exodus was — among other things — a picture of God's future salvation. He saves us from our bondage to sin and overcomes the enemies that would drag us back to our former lives. He is definitely worthy of our song.
- **Worship God in service.**
 - Remember our first point? When we truly read, study, and meditate on the Scriptures, we're going to desire to live it out.
 - That is going to involve what Paul says in Philippians 2. Verse 3-4 tell us, "*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*"
 - Then He illustrates what this looks like by showing us the mind of Christ who sacrificed Himself for us.
 - Similarly, in Romans 12:10 Paul teaches, "*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.*"
 - A beautiful example of this was Jesus' entire life, but specifically the foot washing. Jesus did the job of a slave in order to wash the feet of His betrayer.
 - Serving God by serving others on Easter would be a wonderful way to worship Him.

II. 5 Ways We Can Worship God on Easter

- **Host or join an Easter Sunrise Service.**
 - Many churches have sunrise services on Easter, and they do it because the Bible tells us specifically that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were heading to the tomb while it was still dark — as the sun began to dawn — and they were the first to hear the glorious news that Christ had risen from the dead.
 - But even if a church doesn't have a sunrise service, you can still have one of your own. I would suggest not doing it alone; invite some friends and find a place where you'll be able to see the sun come over the horizon.
 - Read the Scriptures that describes Christ's resurrection and sing some songs.
- **Do Easter-themed crafts.**
 - Christ-centered easter egg hunt designed to teach about the Passion Week and salvation.
 - Bake Resurrection Cookies.
 - Plant Easter Lilies and talk about why these flowers have been associated with Easter.
- **Be creative with your Celebration Walls.**
 - Leading up to Easter — you could decorate your Celebration Wall with elements of Passion Week — palm branches, unleavened bread, a crown of thorns or heavy nails or a cross, and a rock or model tomb.
 - Then on Easter morning you could roll the rock away exposing the empty tomb or replacing it entirely with an Easter Lily or another representation of the living and conquering Lord.
 - And since Easter is the beginning of Eastertide just like Christmas is the beginning of the 12 Days of Christmas, you can continue to update your Celebration Wall as we move toward Pentecost.
- **Reenact elements from the Passion Week.**
 - Many people love to participate in Passion Plays leading up to and including Easter, but you could even do this in the warmth of your own home with your family and friends.
 - You could choose to reenact the various elements of Passion Week on the appropriate days leading up to Easter, or you could do a synopsis of the week on Easter.
 - But for those of who who don't consider yourselves actors, you could still participate in a Passover Meal and/or a foot washing.
 - And — for those of you who need to move into this category of celebration a little slower — I believe there are some very good movies you could watch.
- **Throw an Easter feast.**
 - God puts a lot of important on eating!
 - The Lord prescribed various elaborate feasts for His people that He expected them to use an act of worship to Him. Even many of the sacrifices were not burned up completely. They were basically cooked and then used to feed the priests and the families offering the sacrifice. And what about the the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!
 - All of this to say, God has attached feasting to His worship, and I believe it's entirely appropriate to prepare a special meal to celebrate God on Easter.
 - Of course — as with many of the ideas we've discussed today — we could just as easily do them for our own honor and glory.
 - Don't try to be the talk of the town or impress anyone with your Easter spread. Don't instagram the table and search for likes and affirmation. Instead, serve the people you're feeding and prepare an exquisite meal to try celebrate our exquisite God.